

**Tennessee Board of Optometry
Amended Policy Statement
Non-Compliance with Continuing Education Requirements**

The Tennessee Board of Optometry adopted the following amended policy statement on November 18, 2004:

An Optometrist licensed in Tennessee is required to complete thirty (30) hours of Board approved continuing education during the two (2) calendar years (January 1-December 31) that precede the licensure renewal year. For those who are therapeutically certified, a minimum of twenty (20) of the thirty (30) hours of continuing education is required in the category of diagnosis, treatment, and/or use of pharmaceutical agents in the practice of optometry. The total number of practice management hours that will be accepted is six (6) hours of the thirty (30) hour requirement. Twelve (12) hours of the thirty (30) hour requirement may be completed in any of the following multi-media formats: the Internet, closed circuit television, satellite broadcasts, correspondence courses, videotapes, CD-ROM, DVD, teleconferencing, videoconferencing and distance learning. A maximum of six (6) hours may be granted for grand rounds and the grant rounds must be submitted to the Board for prior approval. (*See Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1045-2-.05 regarding continuing education requirements.*)

Should the Tennessee licensed Optometrist fail to obtain the required amount of continuing education hours, the following shall occur:

- 1. The licensee must pay a civil penalty in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and payment must be rendered within thirty (30) days of notification from the Board.**
- 2. The licensee must make up the amount of continuing education hours that he/she is lacking, in addition to completing the current biennial continuing education requirement. The deficient hours must be made up by the end of the next calendar year. Documented proof of the deficient hours obtained must be submitted to the Board upon completion.**
- 3. The licensee must complete an additional five (5) continuing education hours in the category of diagnosis, treatment, and management in the practice of optometry. These hours are to be completed in addition to the deficient hours and the current biennial continuing education requirement. The five (5) hours must be made up by the end of the next calendar year. Documented proof of completion of the five (5) hours must be submitted to the Board upon completion.**

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action. Failure to respond to the Board request for documentation or to make up deficient continuing education hours after notification by the Board may also result in disciplinary action.

*A licensee is exempt from the continuing education requirements for the calendar year that he/she graduated from an accredited college or school of optometry. A licensee may request a waiver of the continuing education requirements for instances of documented illness, disability, or other undue hardship or retirement.